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# News Release

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## Sunflower fire update:

**Williams, Ariz., August 16, 2016—For Immediate Release.** Officials on the Williams Ranger District of Kaibab National Forest are continuing to make good use of the lightning caused Sunflower Fire that has been naturally spreading for nearly one month since first discovered.

The fire has been progressing across the landscape with low to moderate activity which has proven to be very effective in meeting objectives that include reducing hazardous fuels while improving overall forest health. Crews have been utilizing a technique called “black-lining” where they ignited along the 747 road south to the 110 road in order to keep up with the fires movement for the purpose of fortifying holding features and strengthening control lines. The fire is expected to continue growing for the foreseeable future however growth per day will ebb and flow and be dependent on weather, fuels and topography. Based on the aforementioned factors some ignition operations may continue occurring to ensure that the values at risk are being protected and the fire stays within the planning area.

### SUNFLOWER FIRE OVERVIEW

**Start Date:** July 20, 2016. **Cause:** Lightning. **Current Size:** Sunflower fire – approximately 600 acres.

**Location:** West of Sunflower Flat and White Horse Lake close to the junction of forest roads 747 and 14.

**Incident Commander:** Cody Payne ICT4

**Resources:** One-11 person fuels crew, one-Type 3 engine, and two-Patrol units. Total personnel is 20.

**Current Status:** Drying trends followed by thunderstorms continue to prevail over the area. This fluctuating weather is expected to remain continuous keeping fire behavior and spread consistent to the previous patterns experienced thus far.

**Smoke:** Smoke will be clearly visible at times as fire activity is more active during the drying periods. There have been no major impacts reported to residential areas to date.

[#07-16-11-F Forest Area Closure Order](#) and [Map](#) remains in effect in the vicinity of the fire. Additional fire information for the Kaibab National Forest can be obtained through the following sources: InciWeb <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4884/>; Kaibab National Forest Fire Information Phone Line (928) 635-8311; Text Message – text ‘follow kaibabnf’ to 40404.

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